

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES

Post Office Box 11104
Richmond, Virginia 23230-1104
(804) 367-1000

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMIT CONDITIONS

All persons caring for sick, injured, orphaned, or displaced wild animals are required to have a permit from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

The primary goal of the permittee is to return injured or orphaned native animals to their natural habitat, as quickly as possible, providing them with a reasonable chance to function and behave normally within its population and ecosystem. **Animals that cannot be released must be euthanized immediately.**

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is not liable for any injuries or damage caused by wildlife held under the authority of this permit. Applicants should possess sufficient liability insurance to cover any situations that may occur due to their neglect.

PERMIT LENGTH AND FEES

The wildlife rehabilitation permit will be a 3 year permit with a fee of \$20.00 per year, for a total of \$60.00. This fee is a non-refundable application fee. The permit year is February 1 – January 31 each year. A mandatory inspection will be required upon each 3 year renewal of the permit.

NOTE: Wildlife rehabilitators are only allowed to hold or rehabilitate animals that are listed on their permit. To add additional species to the rehabilitation permit please send this request in writing to the Permits Office.

PERMIT PROCESS

When the Permitting Section of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) receives a call from an individual wanting to become a rehabilitator, they are sent a copy of these conditions and an application. When the permittee is ready for inspection he/she will return the completed application in the enclosed envelope along with the appropriate fee. The Category IC does not require an inspection. The VDGIF permit office then begins to set up the inspection process. The permittee will be set up on the computer and the completed application along with a checklist will be sent to the Game Warden Captain. He will forward this paperwork to the appropriate Game Warden who has 20 days to inspect the individual's facilities. If the individual is not prepared for an inspection within 5 working days of the time they are contacted by an officer to set up an appointment, they will be automatically denied and must contact the Permitting Section when they are ready to initiate the process again. If the individual is approved by the officer during the site inspection, then the Game Warden will have the applicant sign the checklist and forward it to the Game Warden Captain. Any Category IIA, IIB, IIC or III permittees interested in working with the rehabilitation of migratory birds or waterfowl must send a copy of their federal permit to VDGIF. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will not issue a Federal permit to Category I's. When the completed checklist is received, the Permit Section will routinely issue the permit within 30 days or send a letter indicating denial to the applicant.

CATEGORIES

Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits are issued in three (3) categories and are defined as follows:

A Category **IA, IB, and IC**. A Category IA or IB is an apprentice permit for an individual with entry level skills who has less than two years of rehabilitation experience. A Category IA must be sponsored by a Category II or Category III permittee to apply and must satisfy educational requirements. His/Her work is under the direct supervision of the sponsoring Category II, or Category III permittee, and is generally limited to uninjured, orphaned wildlife. A Category IB can take a class online or at The Wildlife Center of Virginia, or other continuing education conferences for wildlife rehabilitation to work on their own. Category IA and IB require a facilities inspection by a representative of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries as well as proof of immunization if necessary. Only a Category IA will be allowed to rehabilitate migratory birds and waterfowl provided their sponsors have contacted the USFWS in writing requesting that the Category I-A be covered by their federal permit to rehabilitate migratory birds and waterfowl.

The Category IA and IB must be at least 18 years of age and will not be allowed to work with high risk rabies species. Current Wildlife Rehabilitators under the age of 18 will be grandfathered provided they keep their permit active.

A Category IC takes the place of the Category IV – care provider. The care provider may provide direct care for, and may come into contact with, wildlife at the facility of a Category I, II, or III permittee, when direct supervision is not available at that facility. (Example: A Category II goes on vacation and needs someone to provide care to the animals at their facility. The Category IC would be qualified to render this assistance.) The Care Provider may not care for animals in their own home. Therefore, this individual would not need to have a facility inspection performed by VDGIF nor shall they need a sponsor. The permittee would need to satisfy the State's pre-permitting and annual educational requirements. They must also be pre-immunized if they are to be working with high risk rabies species. Individuals providing care to raptors, predatory animals, or animals requiring unusual expertise, would need to have advanced skills and provide proof that they have met the certification requirements necessary for the level of care they are providing. (Individuals at whose permitted facility the Category IC is assisting, must contact the USFWS in writing requesting that the Category IC be covered by their federal permit to rehabilitate migratory birds and waterfowl.)

There will be no age limit on the Category IC; however minors can only feed and clean cages and they must be supervised by an adult wildlife rehabilitator.

A Category IIA (Individual), Category IIB (Organization) or Category IIC (individual or organization authorized to work with high risk rabies species), permit is for those with advanced skills who have more than two years of rehabilitation, or equivalent, wildlife care experience. Applicants must satisfy educational requirements annually. They must work in cooperation with a licensed veterinarian and may provide care for all wildlife (except golden eagles and threatened or endangered species)(See attached list on pages 15 - 18), providing that their animal holding facilities meet standard requirements and have passed inspection by the Department and that they have received the appropriate immunizations if necessary.

Category IIA (Individual) is an individual meeting all of the Category II criteria.

Category IIB (Organization) is an incorporated and insured organization meeting the Category II criteria.

Category IIC is an individual or organization authorized to work with high risk rabies species which include bats, foxes, raccoons and skunks.

A Category III (Professional) permit is generally for a professionally operated facility with an on-site veterinary staff. They may provide care for all types of wildlife providing that holding facilities meet standard requirements. Only Category III facilities may provide care for threatened or endangered species and golden eagles.

Transporters do not need an individual permit. A Category II or III permittee may designate individuals to act under their permits as "Transporters." As noted in the permit conditions, the authority of "Transporters" is limited to retrieval and delivery of animals directly to a Category IA, IB, a Category IIA, IIB, IIC or a Category III permittee, or to approved release points when rehabilitation is complete.

At this time, Staff (paid employees) or Volunteers do not need an individual permit if they are working under the direct supervision of a Category IIA, IIB, IIC or III, at the Category II or III's facility. However, if these individuals are providing care on their own, and/or coming into contact with the wildlife, VDGIF strongly recommends that these individuals become permitted as a Category IC Care Provider. If they wish to care for wildlife on their own property or at their residence, regardless of the source of the wildlife or the duration of the care provided, they need to be permitted as at least a Category IA or IB.

UPGRADE TO A CATEGORY II

In order for a Category IA or IB to become a Category II they must:

- 1) provide proof that they have successfully passed a 6 hour online course
- 2) have a minimum of 2 years experience
- 3) have a recommendation from a Category IIA, IIB or IIC wildlife rehabilitator

An upgrade will require the completion of a new application with fee.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. If you move to a different location your permit is not longer valid. We must be notified in writing of any change in address within 30 days. For all Categories except the IC – care giver - a new inspection must take place in order for the permit to be valid.
2. Nuisance species cannot be rehabilitated. Nuisance species include: house mouse, Norway rat, black rat, coyote, groundhog, nutria, feral hog, European starling, English sparrow, pigeon (rock dove) and Mute swan.

3. All wildlife possessed under the authority of this permit shall remain the property of the State of Virginia and under the primary jurisdiction of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). **No animal shall be held for more than 180 days unless specifically approved by the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.**
4. All persons caring for sick, injured, orphaned, or displaced wildlife are required to have a permit from the VDGIF.
5. Consent must be obtained from the VDGIF prior to the disposition or dispersal of any wildlife, their carcasses, parts, products, or progeny thereof, possessed under the provisions of this permit (except as provided by **6a**, **6b**, and **6c**).
6. The legal disposition of wildlife, their carcasses, parts, products, or progeny thereof, shall be as follows:
 - a. Species of native wildlife that recover and are not permanently impaired shall be returned to the wild. Rehabilitated animals, except high-risk rabies animals and deer, should be returned to the area in which they were found or in the county in which they were rehabilitated. High-risk rehabilitated rabies animals must be released in the county in which they were rehabilitated; they cannot be transported across county lines, except when specifically allowed by the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Deer must be released in the county in which they were rehabilitated or in an adjacent county, except when specifically allowed by the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Non-native species shall not be released into the wild but should be placed in a suitable captive environment **or euthanized**. Non-native animals are defined as those species and subspecies of animals not naturally occurring in Virginia. Native reptiles and amphibians that have been rehabilitated should not be released prior to contacting VDGIF due to genetic, disease, and ecological concerns. **No animal shall be released that is displaying clinical signs consistent with a contagious disease.**
 - b. In order to possess permanently impaired migratory birds, a Special Purpose Possession Permit must be obtained from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (See address and phone # in condition 7 below) and VDGIF must be notified of the intent and reason for holding this wildlife and must be in concurrence with the stated purpose. VDGIF must also be notified if the status or disposition of the wildlife changes. As only a limited number of permanently impaired birds may be maintained under the federal permit, other wildlife should be placed in a mutually acceptable facility. All permanently impaired wildlife shall be kept in enclosures that meet, or exceed, the minimum pen specifications. Migratory birds may not be taken to nonpermitted individuals unless prior permission is obtained from the VDGIF. The possession of these permanently impaired birds by non-exhibitors and not for educational purposes must be directly tied to the rehabilitation of other wildlife. If the permanently impaired migratory birds are federally threatened or endangered or a golden eagle, and the rehabilitator has a proven need to possess the bird(s) for noneducational purposes, they will need a Virginia Endangered Species Permit, a Federal Special Purpose Possession Permit, and if applicable, a Federal Eagle Exhibition Permit.
 - c. Wildlife that dies while in the custody of the permittee shall be buried or incinerated, **or upon prior approval from the VDGIF**, be offered to a mutually acceptable museum, university, or other institution for addition to its study collection.
 - d. Non-releasable wildlife should be humanely destroyed (euthanized) unless it can be placed in a facility operating with an exhibitors permit issued from the VDGIF. Deer cannot be exhibited in a facility that accepts deer for rehabilitation, even if the rehabilitator also has an exhibitors permit, nor can deer be transferred from a rehabilitator to any other facility for exhibit. Rehabilitators must remember that animals with visible deformities should be euthanized.
 - e. Due to disease concerns, deer that are brought from outside of Virginia shall not be rehabilitated and shall not be commingled with other deer on premises. **Notify VDGIF immediately if a deer is brought in from outside the state.** If facility space is sufficient, the permittee should accept an out-of-state deer and temporarily hold it separately from other deer until VDGIF staff arrives.
 - f. The permittee shall immediately notify the Department if any member of the Cervidae family demonstrates some combination of clinical neurological signs consistent with Chronic Wasting Disease (e.g., abnormal behavior, increased salivation, tremors, stumbling, lack of coordination, difficulty swallowing, excessive thirst, excessive urination). The permittee is encouraged to euthanize and submit such an animal to the Department for disease testing.
 - g. Wildlife that suffer from zoonotic diseases should not be rehabilitated if they pose a threat to humans or other wildlife.
7. All permittees shall keep records of wildlife in their care. A log shall be maintained for **"all"** wildlife entering the facility for treatment, and a record of their progress and disposition is mandatory. These records shall be submitted to the VDGIF at the end

of the permitting year by **January 31**, or upon request. (A reporting form is enclosed on page 19) Failure to remit this report may result in revocation, cancellation, suspension, or non-renewal of an individual's permit.

8. All permittees **except Category III - Veterinarians** must attend at least six (6) hours of approved continuing education related to wildlife rehabilitation **annually**.
9. This permit is not valid for possession of migratory birds unless accompanied by a Federal Special Purpose Rehabilitation Permit issued by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. [Contact the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Office, Assistant Regional Director, Division of Law, at P. O. Box 779, Hadley, MA 01035-0779 or call (413) 253-8643.]
10. Housing: All wildlife shall be kept in a humane and sanitary manner as prescribed by the VDGIF. (See Basic Requirements for Housing of Wild Animals) (To minimize disease potential, cages that are used for transporting or holding raccoons, should not be utilized for other species.)
11. Safety: Facilities must provide for the safety of confined wildlife as prescribed by the VDGIF. (See Minimum Housing Guidelines)
12. Humane: Wildlife shall be maintained in a humane and uncrowded manner. The permittee shall ensure that wildlife is kept in compatible groups and that all specimens are fed appropriate food.
12. Inspection: Duly authorized employees of the VDGIF or the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service may inspect the permittee's premises at any time to determine whether or not the permittee is complying with these conditions.
14. The permittee shall consider human health and safety first, including rehabilitators and members of the general public.
15. Permittees, or their volunteers, shall not charge any fee associated with the activity herein authorized, nor shall permittees, or their volunteers, require fees for the pick-up or delivery of sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife.
16. Permittees, or their volunteers, shall not represent themselves as agents of the VDGIF, nor shall they trespass upon the property of another for the purpose of taking possession of wildlife without permission of the property owner.
17. Cancellation and Suspension: Any permit may be canceled, or suspended, at any time when it is found that the permittee is not in compliance with the conditions of this permit. Regulation 4 VAC 15-290-130 states that a permit holder shall comply with all terms and conditions of any permit issued by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries pursuant to Title 29.1 of the Code of Virginia and the regulations of the board pertaining to hunting, fishing, trapping, attempting to take, possession, sale, offering for sale, transporting or causing to be transported, importing or exporting, propagating, exhibiting, and rehabilitating of any wild bird, wild animal or fish. The penalty for violation of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor unless another penalty is specified.
18. Wildlife undergoing rehabilitation shall not be displayed or exhibited **or used for publicity in any way including any photography by the news media**. This permit does not authorize the use of releasable or non-releasable animals for exhibit or educational use.
19. The permittee is reminded that the welfare of wildlife populations is more important than the welfare of any individual animal, and nothing done in the interest of an individual animal should unnaturally jeopardize healthy wildlife.
20. All wildlife that is being rehabilitated must be kept in separate rooms or buildings from domestic animals.
21. The permittee shall make every effort to avoid taming, or imprinting, wildlife receiving care if the animal is candidate for releasing back into the wild.
22. The permittee shall not attempt, or be authorized to attempt, wildlife care which is beyond either their expertise or their facilities.
23. Under authority of Section 29.1-545 of the Code of Virginia, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association or corporation to possess, sell, offer for sale, or liberate in the Commonwealth any live fur-bearing animal commonly referred to as nutria.
24. The permittee shall abide by the wildlife rehabilitator code of ethics. (See Code of Ethics section)
25. The primary goal of the permittee is to return injured or orphaned native animals to the wild. Rehabilitated animals, except high-risk rabies animals and deer, should be returned to the area in which they were found or in the county in which they were rehabilitated. High-risk rehabilitated rabies animals must be released in the county in which they were rehabilitated; they

cannot be transported across county lines, except when specifically allowed by the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Deer must be released in the county in which they were rehabilitated or in an adjacent county, except when specifically allowed by the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS WHICH ARE APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY IA and IB PERMITTEES

(In addition to all of the general conditions, the following are specific for Category IA and IB permittees.)

1. May provide care for uninjured, orphaned wildlife (except raptors, predatory animals, or animals requiring unusual expertise or facilities).
2. May receive, transport (see #24 under general conditions), and house (for not more than 24 hours) injured wildlife or orphaned species not authorized under the Category IA permit (except golden eagles and threatened or endangered species), providing they have received authorization and necessary instruction, in advance, from sponsoring Category II or Category III permittee, cooperating veterinarian, agent of the VDGIF, or other individual designated by the VDGIF.
3. In general, a Category IA permittee should not solicit contact with the public except upon referral by their sponsoring Category II or Category III permittee, or designees of the VDGIF. Category IA permittees who receive animals must contact a Category IIA, IIB or IIC permittee within 12 hours of directly receiving animals.
4. Must maintain and provide, as required, a full record of each animal received, including disposition, authorization, and other information. A copy of all records must be provided to the sponsoring rehabilitator.

CONDITIONS WHICH ARE APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY IC PERMITTEES

1. The Category IC permittee may not care for animals in their own home, and will therefore not need a facility inspection.
2. Only permittees 18 years of age and older may handle high risk rabies species.
3. Individuals providing care to raptors, predatory animals, or animals requiring unusual expertise, need to have advanced skills and provide proof that they have met the certification requirements necessary for the level of care they are providing.
4. Individuals must attend at least six (6) hours of approved continuing education related to wildlife rehabilitation annually.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS WHICH ARE APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY IIA and IIB PERMITTEES

(In addition to all of the general conditions, the following are specific for Category IIA and IIB permittees.)

1. May provide care and house for sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife.
2. May receive, transport (see #24 under general conditions), and house (for not more than 24 hours) injured wildlife or orphaned species not authorized under the Category II permit (except golden eagles and threatened or endangered species), providing they have received authorization and necessary instruction, in advance, from cooperating veterinarian, agent of the VDGIF, or other individual designated by the VDGIF.
3. May receive, transport, and hold sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife (threatened or endangered species and golden eagles will be transported to a Category III facility, or other approved facility designated by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, within 24 hours.) The care of the animals must be carried out under the general supervision of the cooperating veterinarian or a Category III facility.
4. The permittee shall not prescribe medications or implement procedures beyond basic supportive care without the authorization of the cooperating veterinarian or a Category III facility.
5. The permittee may designate individuals to act under their permits as "Transporters." The authority of "Transporters" is limited to retrieval and delivery of animals directly to Category IA or IB, Category IIA, IIB or IIC, or Category III permittees, to a veterinarian, or to approved release points when rehabilitation is complete. The permittee is responsible for maintaining a dated log on each transporter, indicating their name, destination, and type of animal(s) transported.
6. The Category IIA or IIC permittees may sponsor up to five (5) Category IA permittees. The Category IIB permittees may sponsor up to twenty (20) Category I permittees. The Category IIB permittee must be available to sponsor Category I permittees.

7. The Category **IIA, IIB and IIC** permittees must be accessible to the VDGIF and the public for consultation and assistance, including having a working telephone number available to the VDGIF and other appropriate individuals, at all times. **Each category II permittee will be required to provide a working telephone number that can be posted on our website. The hotline number for the local rehabilitator group will be acceptable.**
8. The Category **IIA, IIB and IIC** permittees may, upon written notice to the VDGIF, terminate the sponsorship of a Category I permittee. **This written notice must include the reason for the termination of sponsorship.** At the VDGIF's discretion, these permittees may be reassigned to another Category **IIA, IIB or IIC** permittee, or have their permits revoked.
9. The Category **IIA, IIB and IIC** permittees must maintain records on all animals treated by Category IA permittees or associated Category II permittees if different from the Category II permittee's own records.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS WHICH ARE APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY IIC PERMITTEES

1. Only Category IIC rehabilitators may work with rabies vector animals which include bats, foxes, raccoons and skunks. Category IA and IBs and IIA and IIBs may go to the property of a Category IIC to work on rabies vector species but they cannot do it on their own property.
2. In order to become a Category IIC the permittee must have at least 1 year experience as a Category IIA or IIB wildlife rehabilitator.
3. Rabies Immunization: The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries strongly recommends that all permittees who handle bats, foxes, raccoons, or skunks receive a pre-exposure rabies vaccination series, and maintain an adequate rabies antibody titer as evidenced through biannual serologic testing. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), vaccinations decrease the number of doses of vaccine needed, afford protection to persons whose postexposure therapy is delayed, and provides protection to persons at risk for inapparent exposures to rabies. Documentation stating this was discussed with a physician is required if the applicant chooses not to receive a rabies vaccination.
4. If the permittee or any other person or domestic animal receives a bite, scratch or any other contact from a mammalian wildlife species where saliva or brain tissue entered an open, fresh wound or comes in contact with a mucous membrane by entering the eye, mouth, or nose of the exposed person or animal, the permittee must immediately notify the local county or city animal control office and the local health department of the incident. The permittee shall provide local county or city animal control officers or the public health department personnel immediate access to any rabies suspect wildlife specimens captured or killed by the permittee under the authority of this permit, and shall adhere to all guidelines set forth in the Virginia Department of Health publication "*Rabies Control Guidelines*."
5. If an animal exhibits signs of rabies, the animal must be euthanized. Release of high risk rabies species must take place in the county of origin, and the animal must be housed individually in separate cages in a room dedicated to rabies vector species with limited human contact throughout its treatment period. Movement across county lines will be prohibited. The animal must be held in isolation for at least 30 days prior to release.
6. Rehabilitation of rabies vector species will be prohibited in counties where the oral rabies vaccine is being distributed as well as any counties west of this barrier. These counties are Lee, Wise, Dickenson, Buchanan, Scott, Russell, Tazewell, Washington and Smyth.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS WHICH ARE APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY III PERMITTEES

(In addition to all of the general conditions, the following are specific for Category III permittees.)

1. Permanent staff of the facility, engaged in caring for sick, injured, orphaned, or displaced wild animals, are required to be listed on the facility permit.
2. May receive, transport (see #24 under general conditions), hold, and provide care for sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife, including threatened or endangered species and golden eagles (with the approved federal permits).
3. Any Category III rehabilitator must immediately report to VDGIF all threatened or endangered species and golden eagles that are brought to their facility (See list on pages 15 - 18). Upon being contacted, VDGIF will decide if the animal must be transported to another facility that can offer specialized care or if the animal may be retained by the current facility. If retained, rehabilitation and release of the animal must be coordinated with VDGIF's Regional **Wildlife Diversity** Biologists.

4. The permittee may designate individuals to act under their permits as "Transporters." The authority of "Transporters" is limited to retrieval and delivery of animals directly to **Category IA or IB, Category IIA, IIB or IIC, or another Category III** permittee, or to approved release points when rehabilitation is complete. The permittee is responsible for maintaining a dated log on each transporter, indicating their name, destination, and type of animal(s) transported.
5. The Category III permittees may sponsor up to twenty (20) Category **IA** permittees.
6. The Category III permittees may, upon written notice to the VDGIF, terminate the sponsorship of a Category **IA** permittee. **This written notice must include the reason for the termination of sponsorship.** At the discretion of VDGIF, these permittees may be reassigned to another Category **IIA, IIB or IIC** permittee, or have their permits revoked.
7. The Category III permittees must be accessible to the VDGIF and the public for consultation and assistance, including having a working telephone number available to the VDGIF and other appropriate individuals, at all times.
8. The Category III permittees must maintain records on all animals treated by Category **IA or IB** permittees, or Category **IIA, IIB or IIC** permittees, if different from the permittee's own records.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Threatened or Endangered Species and Eagles

- Wildlife should be referred within 24 hours to a Category III facility where full-time veterinary care and appropriate facilities are available unless specifically authorized by the Department. Category I permittees may not possess threatened or endangered species or golden eagles at any time. A list of permitted facilities is maintained by the Department.

Exhibited and Educational Use of Non-Releasable Animals

- The exhibition or educational use of releasable or non-releasable animals is not permitted under rehabilitation permits. To exhibit for educational purposes, a permit to exhibit wildlife is required from the VDGIF. Deer cannot be exhibited in a facility that accepts deer for rehabilitation, even if the rehabilitator also has an exhibitors permit, nor can deer be transferred from a rehabilitator to any other facility for exhibit. Rehabilitators must remember that animals with visible deformities **may not be exhibited** and should be euthanized.
- A U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Special Purpose Possession Permit is required to exhibit migratory birds and a U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Welfare Act License is required to exhibit mammals. [The Virginia USDA may be reached by writing the United States Department of Agriculture, Eastern Region, APHIS, AC, 920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27606 or by calling (919) 716-5532.]

RENEWALS

Regulation 4 VAC 15-30-7 states that provided that the issuance of a permit renewal has been delayed past the expiration date of the permittee's previous permit at no fault of the applicant, the permittee may continue the specific activities authorized by the expired permit until the Department has acted on such person's application for renewal. To qualify for this allowance, applicants must submit a completed renewal application to the Department at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of the permit. The Department may deny renewal of a permit to any applicant who fails to meet the issuance criteria set forth by the Department. Renewal applications will be mailed approximately two months in advance of the permit's expiration date.

Failure to renew your permit on time can result in your authority to hold and care for wildlife being terminated.

FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAWS

This permit does not absolve the permittee of any responsibilities or conditions of any other federal, state, or local laws and regulations, including those that apply to threatened or endangered species.

COMPLIANCE/VIOLATION/REVOCATION:

A. Regulation 4 VAC 15-290-130 states that a permit holder shall comply with all terms and conditions of any permit issued by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries pursuant to Title 29.1 of the Code of Virginia and the regulations of the board pertaining to hunting, fishing, trapping, attempting to take, possession, sale, offering for sale, transporting or causing to be transported, importing or exporting, propagating, exhibiting, and rehabilitating of any wild bird, wild animal or fish. The penalty for violation of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor unless another penalty is specified. Further, any violation of state or federal wildlife laws related to the permitted activities by the permittee, his/her agents or employees, or guests will constitute a violation of the conditions of the permit.

B. As provided by 4 VAC 15-30-5, failure to comply with the provisions of a permit may result in the revocation or suspension of the permit for a period up to but not to exceed five (5) years. Any person whose permit is revoked, or suspended may appeal that decision in writing, to the Director, Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, 4010 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230.

CODE OF ETHICS

1. Wildlife rehabilitation is defined as the treatment and temporary care of injured, diseased, and displaced indigenous wildlife, and the subsequent release of health-viable animals into appropriate habitat.
2. A rehabilitator's attitude should be responsible, conscientious, and dedicated. A rehabilitator should continuously work toward improving the quality of care given to wild animals undergoing rehabilitation.
3. A rehabilitator must abide by local, state, and federal laws concerning wildlife, wildlife rehabilitation, and associated activities.
4. A rehabilitator should establish safe work habits and conditions, abiding by current health and safety practices at all times.
5. A rehabilitator should acknowledge his/her limitations, and enlist the assistance of a veterinarian or other trained professional when appropriate.
6. A rehabilitator should respect other rehabilitators, and persons in related fields, sharing skills and knowledge in the spirit of cooperation for the welfare of the animals.
7. A rehabilitator should place optimum animal care above personal gain.
8. A rehabilitator should strive to provide professional and humane care in all phases of wildlife rehabilitation, respecting the wildness, and maintaining the dignity of each animal in life and in death. Releasable animals should be maintained in a wild condition, and released as soon as appropriate. Non-releasable animals which are inappropriate for education, foster-parenting, or captive breeding (only when Department approved), should be considered for humane euthanasia.
9. A rehabilitator should encourage community support and public education. The common goal should be to promote a responsible concern for living beings, and the welfare of the environment.
10. A rehabilitator should work on the basis of sound ecological principles, incorporating appropriate conservation ethics, and an attitude of stewardship.
11. A rehabilitator should conduct all business and activities in a professional manner, with honesty, integrity, compassion, and commitment, realizing that an individual's conduct reflects on the entire field of wildlife rehabilitation.
12. A wildlife rehabilitator should strive to achieve high standards of animal care through knowledge, and an understanding of the field. Continuing efforts must be made to keep informed of current rehabilitation information, methods, and regulations.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSING OF WILD ANIMALS

INSPECTION - Wildlife held in captivity shall be subjected to inspection by any Virginia game warden or animal warden (county animal control officer). Inspecting officers shall determine whether the said wildlife are adequately fed, sheltered, cleaned, cared for, provided with sufficient space, veterinary care, and securely, properly, and safely penned. In the event that the animal is not adequately cared for, the

officer shall report the situation in writing to the person holding such wildlife. Failure of the holder or exhibitor to correct the situation within 24-hours after such written notice will result in revocation of all permits to hold such wildlife.

HOLDING CAPTIVE WILDLIFE - All persons keeping wildlife shall be responsible for practicing good animal husbandry, handling, production, management, confinement, feeding, watering, protection, shelter, transportation, treatment, and when necessary, euthanasia, appropriate for the age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal, and the provision of veterinary care, when needed, to prevent suffering or impairment of health.

ALL CAPTIVE WILDLIFE SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH:

Adequate food to include access to, and provision of, food which is of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain each animal in good health; is accessible to each animal; is prepared so as to permit ease of consumption for the age, species, condition, size, and type of each animal, is provided in a clean and sanitary manner, is placed so as to minimize contamination by excrement and pests; and is provided at suitable intervals for the species held, but at least once daily, except as prescribed by a veterinarian or as dictated by naturally occurring states of hibernation or fasting normal for the species.

Adequate water to include provision of and access to clean, fresh, potable water of a drinkable temperature which is provided in a suitable manner, in sufficient volume, and at suitable intervals but at least once every twelve hours, to maintain normal hydration except as prescribed by a veterinarian or as dictated by naturally occurring state of hibernation or fasting normal for the species; and is provided in clean, durable receptacles which are accessible to each animal and are placed so as to minimize contamination of the water by excrement and pests or an alternative source of hydration consistent with generally accepted husbandry practices.

Properly cleaned enclosure to include the removal of carcasses, debris, food waste, and excrement in sufficient frequency to minimize the captive wildlife contact with the above-mentioned contaminants; the primary enclosure is sanitized with sufficient frequency to minimize odors and the hazards of disease; and the primary enclosure is cleaned so as to prevent the animals confined therein from being directly, or indirectly, sprayed with the stream of water, or exposed to hazardous chemicals or disinfectants.

Proper lighting means sufficient illumination to permit routine inspections, maintenance, cleaning and maintenance of the shelter, and observation of captive wildlife; to provide regular diurnal light cycles of either natural or artificial light, uniformly diffused throughout the wildlife holding facilities, and to promote the well-being of the wildlife.

Adequate care meaning the responsible practice of good animal husbandry, handling, production, management, confinement, feeding, watering, protection, shelter, transportation, treatment, and, when necessary, euthanasia, appropriate for the age, species, condition, size, and type of the animal, and the provision of veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering, impairment of health or disease transmission.

DISINFECTING OF CAGES - While daily removal of feces and urine from mammal cages is necessary to prevent odor, parasite reinfestation, and insect over-population, avian species in large flight aviaries may be cleaned on a less frequent basis, providing there is a regular schedule for cleaning. Some mammals (i.e., cottontail) have a need to ingest feces. Special arrangements can be made for species who have this need. There are various disinfecting agents used after daily cleaning to properly sanitize the cage.

GENERAL CAGE COMMENTS

The enclosures suggested, with the exception of conditioning cages, are for short-term (i.e., usually less than six months) housing of rehabilitation animals. The philosophy which dictates cage size presupposes normal recovery times for the patient. None of the confinement or recovery cages are recommended for extended or permanent care.

Any bird old enough to perch requires the same size cage as the adult of the species. Enclosures should be made secure against common local predators.

Cage design should provide for ease of cleaning, ventilation, light, and temperature control. A separate source of water for drinking and bathing for each enclosure should be provided.

COMMENTS REGARDING AVIAN CAGING - Materials for caging vary within the field. Solid walls for aviaries can be constructed of wood, fiberglass, or their equivalent. Hardware cloth, chicken wire, and chain-link fencing are not recommended if the birds can come into direct contact with them. If vertical wood lath, fiberglass screening, or netting prevent direct contact, then wire on outside can add extra security. Flooring for aviaries is often pea gravel over sand which should be changed bi-annually, or as needed. Natural flooring is acceptable in very large enclosures but it must be turned and disinfected from time to time. Flooring for small cages may include towels or raised netting over newspaper, newspaper alone, or wood (but not cedar) shavings, depending on the species being housed. Perches can be

wood doweling or plastic piping (or the equivalent) covered by ¼" astroturf, hemp, or indoor/outdoor carpeting. Platforms can be covered with ½" astroturf or indoor/outdoor carpeting. Natural limbs, bow, block, and ring perches are appropriate for certain species of birds. For small confinement, as in a carrier, removable and changeable perches, giving a different resting surface each day, are recommended to avoid confinement sores.

CONFINEMENT - designated for initial housing of birds suffering from special problems such as traumatic injuries, post-surgical care, severely debilitating conditions such as shock, toxicity, neurological impairment, or other conditions that require close supervision and management. Confinement cages include airline pet carriers, incubators, padded cages, open boxes that allow for thermo-regulation with heat lamps, etc. These cages should be used when activity must be restricted.

RECOVERY - designated to encompass all necessary elements of housing during the initial healing period, including "cage rest" situations.

CONDITIONING - designated to provide an opportunity for recuperated birds to improve their strength, develop stamina and coordination, restore muscle tone, and acclimate to ambient weather conditions by swimming, flying, etc. in larger outdoor enclosures.

CONSIDERATIONS IN DEFINING AVIAN CAGE SIZES - Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced State Game Wardens who will be concerned with its workability.

Since exterior plywood is available in economical and easy to use 4'x 8' sheets, some caging standards have been calculated, using numbers that are based on material size. Maximum volume is achieved with cubic cages. Cage sizes specify minimums, but it is best to give the birds the maximum amount of space. Consequently, cages should be built using the size designed for the largest species to be housed, since they will be reused with different species at different times. While the raptor cage information states a minimum rectangular size, it has been found that a semi-circular L-shaped enclosure will often be better to evaluate angling abilities.

Equivalent substitution is encouraged. Certainly, in most cases, the usual 7" x 10" x 17" cardboard portable pet carrier is an excellent substitute for the 12" x 12" x 12" cage size listed for initial care of small birds. Intelligent substitution of height and ground area requirements is encouraged. While pheasants and egrets are the same size, one requires height and the other needs ground space. Cages are only specified in cubic footage. It would be very difficult to specify ground room for individual species. Additionally, birds cannot be assigned cage sizes by species, due to variations within species. For example, the Canada goose has at least seven races that are identifiable by size. They range from the giant, which has a six-foot wingspread and breeds in Missouri, to the small mallard size that breeds near the Arctic Circle and winters in California. For this reason, non-raptorial species are housed according to their general size (in this instance, the height of the bird).

CODES FOR SPECIAL CAGING REQUIREMENTS

- C Birds such as woodpeckers and nuthatches require angled and/or Vertical logs for climbing. Provide suitable materials for clinging birds such as chimney swifts.
- D Birds with this designation require old logs, etc. as drumming materials.
- F Special substrate needed. These species are susceptible to foot problems. Depending on the species, padded flooring, towels, sheeting, carpets, kitty litter, crumpled newspaper covered with toweling, sand, or suspended net flooring may be used.
- H Hides; provide natural vegetative material or man-devised areas for cover.
- P Requires two or more perches of varied diameter.
- Pi Piling or shelves required for perching.
- Q Quiet and extreme privacy required.
- S Bathing area required; "kiddies pool" size.
- So Swimming area required; large pool (deeper than 2'), tank, pond. Provide a resting platform in any swimming area. For above ground pools, a ramp covered with astroturf or equivalent should be provided.
- W Used waterbed, suspended netting, sheepskin padding, or crumpled newspapers (6" high minimum) covered with towels.
- Z Although larger conditioning cage sizes are preferred for hummingbirds, great care must be taken to seal off small openings or

cracks that can act as traps.

RELATIONSHIP OF LATIN AND ENGLISH NAMES

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Gaviiformes | Loons |
| Podicipediformes | Grebes |
| Procellariiformes | Petrels, Shearwaters |
| Pelecaniformes | Pelicans, Gannets, Boobies, Cormorants |
| Ciconiiformes | Bitterns, Herons, Egrets |
| Anseriformes | Swans, Geese, Ducks |
| Falconiformes | Vultures, Hawks, Ospreys, Falcons |
| Galliformes | Pheasants, Quails |
| Gruiformes | Rails, Coots, Cranes |
| Charadriiformes | Gulls, Terns, Plovers, Sandpipers, Alcids |
| Columbiformes | Pigeons, Doves |
| Psittaciformes | Parrots |
| Cuculiformes | Cuckoos, Roadrunners |
| Strigiformes | Owls |
| Caprimulgiformes | Nighthawks, Goatsuckers |
| Apodiformes | Hummingbirds, Swifts |
| Coraciiformes | Kingfishers |
| Piciformes | Woodpeckers |
| Passeriformes | Perching and Songbirds |

MINIMUM HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR NON-RAPTOR AVIAN SPECIES -

Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced State Game Wardens who will be concerned with its workability.

| Family | Height (inches) | Confinement | Recovery | Conditioning | Codes |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Gaviiformes | ±24 | 24" x 24" x 24" | 4' x 4' x 8' | Swim Area | S1, W |
| Podicipediformes | <9 | 12" x 12" x 12" | 18" x 18" x 18" | Swim Area | S, F |
| | >9 | 18" x 18" x 18" | 24" x 24" x 24" | Swim Area | S1, W |
| Procellariiformes | <12 | 12" x 12" x 12" | 18" x 18" x 18" | Swim Area | S, P, F |
| | 12-18 | 18" x 18" x 18" | 24" x 24" x 24" | Swim Area | Pi, S1, Sp, F |
| | >18 | 36" x 36" x 36" | 4' x 4' x 4' | Swim Area | W, S1, Sp, F |
| Pelecaniformes | <36 | 36" x 36" x 36" | 4' x 4' x 4' | Swim Area | Pi, S1, Sp, F |
| | >36 | 48" x 36" x 36" | 4' x 4' x 8' | Swim Area | Pi, S1, Sp, F |
| Ciconiiformes | <20 | 24" x 24" x 24" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 4' x 4' x 8' | S, P, F, Q |
| | >20 | 36" x 36" x 36" | 36" x 36" x 36" | 4' x 4' x 8' | S, P, F, Q |
| Anseriformes | <20 | 24" x 24" x 24" | 36" x 36" x 36" | Pen/pool | S, F |
| | 20-30 | 36" x 36" x 36" | 4' x 4' x 8' | Pen/pool | S, F |
| | >30 | 4' x 4' x 8' | 4' x 8' x 8' | Swim Area | S1, F |
| Galliformes | <20 | 24" x 24" x 24" | 36" x 36" x 36" | 4' x 4' x 8' | H |
| | >20 | 36" x 36" x 36" | 4' x 4' x 8' | 4' x 4' x 8' | H |
| Gruiformes | <9 | 12" x 12" x 12" | 18" x 18" x 18" | 4' x 8' x 8' | H |
| | >9 | 18" x 18" x 18" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 4' x 8' x 8' | H |
| Charadriiformes | <9 | 12" x 12" x 12" | 18" x 18" x 18" | 4' x 8' x 8' | H, Pi |
| | 09-15 | 18" x 18" x 18" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 4' x 8' x 8' | H, Pi |
| | 15-20 | 24" x 24" x 24" | 36" x 36" x 36" | 8' x 8' x 8' | H, S, Pi |
| | 20-30 | 36" x 36" x 36" | 4' x 4' x 4' | 16' x 8' x 8' | H, S, Pi |
| Columbiformes | ±9 | 12" x 12" x 12" | 12" x 12" x 12" | 16' x 8' x 8' | |
| Cuculiformes | <12 | 18" x 18" x 18" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 8' x 8' x 8' | |
| | >12 | 24" x 24" x 24" | 36" x 36" x 36" | 16' x 8' x 8' | |
| Caprimulgiformes | ±9 | 12" x 12" x 12" | 12" x 12" x 12" | 8' x 8' x 8' | P |
| Apodiformes | <9 | 12" x 12" x 12" | 12" x 12" x 12" | 4' x 8' x 8' | P, C, Z |
| Coraciiformes | <9 | 12" x 12" x 12" | 18" x 18" x 18" | 4' x 8' x 8' | S, Pi |
| Piciformes | <9 | 12" x 12" x 12" | 18" x 18" x 18" | 4' x 8' x 8' | C, D |
| | 09-15 | 18" x 18" x 18" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 16' x 8' x 8' | C, D |
| Passeriformes | <9 | 12" x 12" x 12" | 18" x 18" x 18" | 4' x 8' x 8' | P |
| | 9-15 | 18" x 18" x 18" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 8' x 8' x 8' | P |
| | >15 | 24" x 24" x 24" | 36" x 36" x 36" | 16' x 8' x 8' | P |

MINIMUM HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR RAPTORS

Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced State Game Wardens who will be concerned with its workability.

| <u>SPECIES</u> | <u>INITIAL CARE</u> | <u>RECOVERING</u> | <u>CONDITIONING</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Falconiformes</u> | | | |
| Turkey/ Black Vulture | 36" x 36" x 36" | 72" x 72" x 48" | 20' x 10' x 15' |
| Northern Goshawk | 24" x 16" x 24" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 20' x 10' x 15' |
| Cooper's Hawk | 18" x 14" x 18" | 24" x 18" x 24" | 15' x 8' x 8' |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 18" x 14" x 18" | 24" x 18" x 24" | 15' x 8' x 8' |
| Northern Harrier | 18" x 14" x 18" | 24" x 18" x 24" | 20' x 10' x 15' |
| Rough-legged Hawk | 22" x 16" x 21" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 20' x 10' x 15' |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 22" x 16" x 21" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 20' x 10' x 15' |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 22" x 16" x 21" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 20' x 10' x 15' |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 22" x 16" x 21" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 20' x 10' x 15' |
| Swainson's Hawk | 22" x 16" x 21" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 20' x 10' x 15' |
| Broad-winged Hawk | 18" x 14" x 14" | 24" x 18" x 24" | 15' x 8' x 8' |
| Harris' Hawk | 22" x 16" x 21" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 20' x 10' x 15' |
| Golden Eagle | 36" x 36" x 36" | 72" x 72" x 48" | 40' x 20' x 20' |
| Bald Eagle | 36" x 36" x 36" | 72" x 72" x 72" | 40' x 20' x 20' |
| Osprey | 36" x 36" x 36" | 72" x 72" x 48" | 40' x 20' x 20' |
| Gyr Falcon | 22" x 16" x 21" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 20' x 10' x 15' |

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Prairie Falcon | 22" x 16" x 21" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 20' x 10' x 15' |
| Peregrine Falcon | 22" x 16" x 21" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 20' x 10' x 15' |
| Merlin | 18" x 14" x 18" | 24" x 18" x 24" | 15' x 8' x 8' |
| American Kestrel | 17" x 17" x 10" | 17" x 17" x 17" | 10' x 8' x 8' |

Strigiformes

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Northern Screech Owl | 17" x 7" x 10" | 17" x 17" x 17" | 8' x 8' x 6' |
| Great Horned Owl | 22" x 16" x 21" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 25' x 10' x 15' |
| Long-eared Owl | 18" x 14" x 18" | 24" x 18" x 24" | 15' x 8' x 8' |
| Short-eared Owl | 18" x 14" x 18" | 24" x 18" x 24" | 15' x 8' x 8' |
| Barn Owl | 18" x 14" x 18" | 24" x 18" x 24" | 15' x 8' x 8' |
| Snowy Owl | 22" x 16" x 21" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 20' x 10' x 15' |
| Barred Owl | 22" x 16" x 21" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 20' x 10' x 15' |
| Spotted Owl | 22" x 16" x 21" | 24" x 24" x 24" | 15' x 8' x 8' |
| Great Gray Owl | 36" x 36" x 36" | 72" x 72" x 48" | 20' x 10' x 15' |
| Northern Hawk Owl | 18" x 14" x 18" | 24" x 18" x 24" | 15' x 8' x 8' |
| Burrowing Owl | 17" x 7" x 10" | 17" x 17" x 17" | 8' x 8' x 6' |
| Boreal Owl | 17" x 7" x 10" | 17" x 17" x 17" | 8' x 8' x 6' |
| Northern Saw-whet Owl | 17" x 7" x 10" | 17" x 17" x 17" | 8' x 8' x 6' |
| Flammulated Owl | 17" x 7" x 10" | 17" x 17" x 17" | 8' x 8' x 6' |
| Northern Pygmy Owl | 17" x 7" x 10" | 17" x 17" x 17" | 8' x 8' x 6' |
| Elf Owl | 17" x 7" x 10" | 17" x 17" x 17" | 8' x 8' x 6' |

LISTED IN ORDER: Length x Width x Height

MINIMUM HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

These guidelines are currently being developed and will be distributed upon completion.

MINIMUM HOUSING GUIDELINES FOR SELECTED MAMMALS

Comments on Mammal Housing - Although considerable thought and experience determined the cage sizes listed in this program, it is impossible to consider all possibilities in terms of material, design, or size. Caging will be reviewed, on-site, by experienced State Game Wardens who will be concerned with its workability.

The following are suggested building materials for outdoor cages. Walls are generally made of chain-link fencing, welded wire, or wood. When wooden cages are used, they should be water-sealed. Welded wire sizes are as follows: ½" x ½" for small rodents and opossums (100g or less); ½" x 1" for squirrels; and 1" x 1-½" for raccoons and larger mammals. Roofing materials are the same with a covered area that provides protection from the elements. Fiberglass is sometimes used on top of the wire to provide protection. The flooring depends on the species being housed. Concrete flooring should be sloped for proper drainage. If natural flooring is utilized, wire fencing should be placed under the cage and be covered with a draining gravel. Wood shavings can be used if they are changed regularly. All doors should be equipped with a double door system for the protection of the handler and the animal. A den should be provided for the animal. Raccoons should have a dedicated enclosure to avoid spreading disease to other species; examples can include a wooden box, fiberglass, or plastic animal carrier.

Specific Species Requirements

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Rodents: | Logs for gnawing to curb tooth growth; bark must be edible. Some species may utilize dirt for burying food, dust baths, etc. A source of calcium (i.e. a cuttlebone or antler) could also be provided. |
| Raccoons: | Hammocks made of fabric, hanging tires, etc. attached to wall or roof; tree limbs and logs to promote climbing; provide a wading pool or water container applicable to the animal's size to allow bathing and food handling. |
| Bobcats | Large branches and logs (some hollow) should be provided for climbing; high platforms for resting above the cage floor. |
| Muskrats, Otters, Beavers: | Must have water containers that are large enough to swim in and are at least two feet deep; examples include bathtubs, metal troughs, metal or concrete pools (plastic kiddie pools are not deep enough and will be destroyed by the animal); Heavy fiberglass stock tanks with drain in bottom work well. Container of soil at least one foot deep should be provided for digging. A den for hiding should be provided. |
| Hooved Mammals: | If chain link is used for the walls, drapes must be hung over the inside of the chain link to avoid injury to the animal, and to keep it from climbing out (i.e., blankets tied securely or tarps). General practice is to take deer from injured adult caging to release in an effort to prevent cage trauma. |
| Bear: | Den should be made of concrete blocks or bricks (8' x 8' x 6') and attached to the wall of the cage. This will house one adult or two juveniles. Heavy logs and a large indestructible tub for bathing are also necessary. |
| Marine Mammals: | Shall be housed in accordance with APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) Standards. |

The following guidelines are meant to give guidance on minimum housing requirements for the rehabilitation of various species of eastern mammals. All cage sizes are indicated in feet and are in order of length x width x height. Abbreviations are as follows:

PP cardboard portable pet carrier;
 L one litter;
 gal. size of an aquarium tank;
 (S) number of animals per enclosure.

| <u>SPECIES</u> | <u>INITIAL CARE</u> | <u>NURSING</u> | <u>JUVENILE</u> | <u>ADULT</u> |
|-------------------|--|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Woodrat | (1) 15 gal. | (1) 15 gal. | (1) 4 x 6 x 2 | (1) 4 x 6 x 2 |
| Cottontail | (1) PP | (1) PP | (L) 4 x 6 x 2 | (1) 4 x 6 x 2 |
| Mice | 10 gal. aquarium or lab caging - 1 adult or 1 litter | | | |
| Gray/Fox Squirrel | (1) PP | (L) PP | (L) 4 x 6 x 4 | (1) 4 x 6 x 6 |
| Flying Squirrel | (L) PP | (L) PP | (1) 4 x 6 x 2 | (1) 4 x 3 x 4 |
| Chipmunk | (1) PP | (L) PP | (L) 2 x 2 x 2 | (1) 2 x 2 x 2 |
| Muskrat | (1) PP | (1) PP | (2) 4 x 6 x 2 | (1) 4 x 6 x 2 |
| Weasel/Mink/Skunk | (1) PP | (1) PP | (1) 3 x 3 x 3 | (1) 3 x 3 x 3 |

| <u>SPECIES</u> | <u>NURSING EYES CLOSED</u> | <u>WEANING</u> | <u>JUVENILE</u> | <u>INITIAL INJ. ADULT</u> | <u>OUTSIDE ADULT</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Raccoon | (L) PP | (3) 3 x 3 x 3 | (4) 4 x 6 x 5 | (1) 2 x 3 x 3 | (1) 4 x 8 x 8 |
| Opossum | (L) PP | (L) 3 x 3 x 3 | (1) 4 x 4 x 8 | (1) 2 x 2 x 2 | (1) 4 x 4 x 8 |
| Gray Fox | (L) PP | (L) 3 x 3 x 3 | (2-3) 4 x 8 x 6 | (1) 2 x 2 x 2 | (2-3) 4 x 8 x 6 |
| Red Fox | (L) PP | (1) 3 x 3 x 3 | (2-3) 4 x 8 x 6 | (1) 2 x 2 x 2 | (2-3) 4 x 8 x 6 |
| Woodchuck | (L) 3 x 3 x 3 | (1) 3 x 3 x 3 | (1) 8 x 8 x 6 | (1) 3 x 3 x 3 | (1) 8 x 8 x 6 |
| Bobcat | (L) PP | (2) 3 x 3 x 3 | (2) 8 x 8 x 6 | (1) 3 x 3 x 3 | (2) 8 x 8 x 6 |
| River Otter | (L) 6 x 8 x 6 | (L) 6 x 12 x 6 | (1) 3 x 3 x 3 | (1) 6 x 12 x 6 | |
| Fisher | (L) PP | (1) 3 x 3 x 3 | (1) 6 x 8 x 6 | (1) 4 x 3 x 3 | (1) 6 x 8 x 6 |
| Marten | (L) PP | (1) 3 x 3 x 3 | (1) 4 x 8 x 6 | (1) 2 x 2 x 2 | (1) 4 x 8 x 6 |
| Beaver | (L) PP | (L) 3 x 3 x 3 | (L) 8 x 12 x 6 | (1) 4 x 3 x 3 | (1) 8 x 12 x 6 |
| Bear | (L) PP | (L) 3 x 6 x 3 | (L) 8 x 12 x 8 | (1) 8 x 12 x 8 | (1) 20 x 36 x 16 |
| White-tailed Deer | (1-2) 4 x 4 x 2 | (4) 10 x 15 x 6 | (6) 30 x 50 x 6 | (1) 8 x 8 x 8 | |

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Special Status Species in Virginia*
Sublist of Species for Wildlife Rehabilitators

| <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Scientific Name</u> | <u>Status</u> ¹ |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <u>FRESHWATER FISHES:</u> | | |
| Ashy darter | <i>Etheostoma cinereum</i> | SOC |
| Atlantic sturgeon | <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus</i> | SSC |
| Blackbanded sunfish | <i>Enneacanthus chaetodon</i> | SE |
| Blotchside logperch | <i>Percina burtoni</i> | SSC |
| Bluebreast darter | <i>Etheostoma camurum</i> | SSC |
| Bluestone sculpin | <i>Cottus sp. (undescribed)</i> | SOC |
| Bridle shiner | <i>Notropis bifrenatus</i> | SSC |
| Brook silverside | <i>Labidesthes sicculus</i> | SSC |
| Candy darter | <i>Etheostoma osburni</i> | SOC/SSC |
| Carolina darter | <i>Etheostoma collis</i> | ST |
| Channel darter | <i>Percina copelandi</i> | SSC |
| Duskytail darter | <i>Etheostoma sp. [percnurum]</i> | FE |
| Emerald shiner | <i>Notropis atherinoides</i> | ST |
| Fatlips minnow | <i>Phenacobius crassilabrum</i> | SSC |
| Greenfin darter | <i>Etheostoma chlorobranchium</i> | ST |
| Kanawha minnow | <i>Phenacobius teretulus</i> | SOC |
| Longhead darter | <i>Percina macrocephala</i> | ST/SOC |
| Mirror shiner | <i>Notropis spectrunculus</i> | SSC |
| Orange fin madtom | <i>Noturus gilberti</i> | ST/SOC |
| Paddlefish | <i>Polyodon spathula</i> | ST/SOC |
| Popeye shiner | <i>Notropis ariommus</i> | SSC |
| River redhorse | <i>Moxostoma carinatum</i> | SSC |
| Roanoke bass | <i>Ambloplites cavifrons</i> | SSC |
| Roanoke logperch | <i>Percina rex</i> | FE |
| Roughhead shiner | <i>Notropis semperasper</i> | SOC/SSC |
| Rustyside sucker | <i>Moxostoma hamiltoni</i> | SSC |
| Sauger | <i>Stizostedion canadense</i> | SSC |
| Sharphead darter | <i>Etheostoma acuticeps</i> | SE |
| Shortnose sturgeon | <i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i> | FE |
| Slender chub | <i>Erimystax cahni</i> | FT |
| Speckled killifish | <i>Fundulus rathbuni</i> | SSC |
| Spotfin chub | <i>Cyprinella monacha</i> | FT |
| Spotted madtom | <i>Noturus insignis ssp. (undescribed)</i> | SOC |
| Steelcolor shiner | <i>Cyprinella whipplei</i> | ST |
| Stonecat | <i>Noturus flavus</i> | SSC |
| Tennessee dace | <i>Phoxinus tennesseensis</i> | SE |
| Tippecanoe darter | <i>Etheostoma tippecanoe</i> | ST |
| Variegated darter | <i>Etheostoma variatum</i> | SE |
| Western sand darter | <i>Ammocrypta clara</i> | ST |
| Whitemouth shiner | <i>Notropis alborus</i> | ST |
| Yellowfin madtom | <i>Noturus flavipinnis</i> | FT |

¹ FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; PE=Federal Proposed Endangered; FC=Federal Candidate; SOC=Federal Species of Concern (not a legal status); SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened; SSC=State Special Concern (not a legal status)

* Effective 1 January 2001

11/16/2001 dsd

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Special Status Species in Virginia*
Sublist of Species for Wildlife Rehabilitators

| <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Scientific Name</u> | <u>Status</u> ¹ |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <u>AMPHIBIANS:</u> | | |
| <u>Frogs</u> | | |
| Barking treefrog | <i>Hyla gratiosa</i> | ST |
| Carpenter frog | <i>Rana virgatipes</i> | SSC |
| Oak toad | <i>Bufo quercicus</i> | SSC |
| <u>Salamanders</u> | | |
| Cow Knob salamander | <i>Plethodon punctatus</i> | SOC/SSC |
| Eastern hellbender | <i>Cryptobranchus a. alleganiensis</i> | SOC/SSC |
| Eastern tiger salamander | <i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i> | SE |
| Mabee's salamander | <i>Ambystoma mabeei</i> | ST |
| Mole salamander | <i>Ambystoma talpoideum</i> | SSC |
| Peaks of Otter salamander | <i>Plethodon hubrichti</i> | SOC/SSC |
| Pigmy salamander | <i>Desmognathus wrighti</i> | SSC |
| Shenandoah salamander | <i>Plethodon shenandoah</i> | FE |
| Shovelnose salamander | <i>Leurognathus marmoratus</i> | SSC |
| Weller's salamander | <i>Plethodon welleri ventromaculatus</i> | SSC |
| <u>REPTILES:</u> | | |
| <u>Lizards</u> | | |
| Eastern glass lizard | <i>Ophisaurus ventralis</i> | ST |
| <u>Snakes</u> | | |
| Canebrake rattlesnake | <i>Crotalus horridus</i> | SE |
| Mountain earth snake | <i>Virginia valeriae pulchra</i> | SSC |
| Northern pine snake | <i>Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus</i> | SOC |
| <u>Turtles</u> | | |
| Atlantic green sea turtle | <i>Chelonia mydas</i> | FT |
| Bog turtle | <i>Clemmys muhlenbergii</i> | SE/FC |
| Eastern chicken turtle | <i>Deirochelys reticularia</i> | SE |
| Hawksbill sea turtle | <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> | FE |
| Kemp's Ridley sea turtle | <i>Lepidochelys kemp</i> | FE |
| Leatherback sea turtle | <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> | FE |
| Loggerhead sea turtle | <i>Caretta caretta</i> | FT |
| Northern diamondback terrapin | <i>Malaclemys terrapin terrapin</i> | SOC |
| Wood turtle | <i>Clemmys insculpta</i> | ST |

¹ FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; PE=Federal Proposed Endangered; FC=Federal Candidate; SOC=Federal Species of Concern (not a legal status); SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened; SSC=State Special Concern (not a legal status)

* Effective 1 January 2001

11/16/2001 dsd

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Special Status Species in Virginia*
Sublist of Species for Wildlife Rehabilitators

| <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Scientific Name</u> | <u>Status¹</u> |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <u>BIRDS:</u> | | |
| Alder flycatcher | <i>Empidonax alnorum</i> | SSC |
| Bachman's sparrow | <i>Aimophila aestivalis</i> | ST/SOC |
| Bachman's warbler | <i>Vermivora bachmanii</i> | FE |
| Bald eagle | <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> | ST |
| | (See note A below for effective date) | |
| Bewick's wren | <i>Thryomanes bewickii altus</i> | SE/SOC |
| Black rail | <i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i> | SOC |
| Brown creeper | <i>Certhia americana</i> | SSC |
| Brown pelican | <i>Pelecanus occidentalis carolinens</i> | SSC |
| Caspian tern | <i>Sterna caspia</i> | SSC |
| Cerulean warbler | <i>Dendroica cerulea</i> | SOC |
| Common barn-owl | <i>Tyto alba</i> | SSC |
| Common moorhen | <i>Gallinula chloropus cachinnans</i> | SSC |
| Dickcissel | <i>Spiza americana</i> | SSC |
| Forster's tern | <i>Sterna forsteri</i> | SSC |
| Glossy ibis | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> | SSC |
| Golden-crowned kinglet | <i>Regulus satrapa</i> | SSC |
| Golden-winged warbler | <i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i> | SSC |
| Great egret | <i>Casmerodius albus egretta</i> | SSC |
| Gull-billed tern | <i>Sterna nilotica</i> | ST |
| Henslow's sparrow | <i>Ammodramus henslowii</i> | ST/SOC |
| Hermit thrush | <i>Catharus guttatus</i> | SSC |
| Kirtland's warbler | <i>Dendroica kirtlandii</i> | FE |
| Least tern | <i>Sterna antillarum</i> | SSC |
| Little blue heron | <i>Egretta caerulea caerulea</i> | SSC |
| Loggerhead shrike | <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> | ST/SOC |
| Long-eared owl | <i>Asio otus</i> | SSC |
| Magnolia warbler | <i>Dendroica magnolia</i> | SSC |
| Mourning warbler | <i>Oporornis philadelphia</i> | SSC |
| Northern goshawk | <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> | SOC |
| Northern harrier | <i>Circus cyaneus</i> | SSC |
| Northern saw-whet owl | <i>Aegolius acadicus</i> | SSC |
| Peregrine falcon | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | ST |
| Piping plover | <i>Charadrius melodus</i> | FT |
| Purple finch | <i>Carpodacus purpureus</i> | SSC |
| Red crossbill | <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> | SSC |
| Red-breasted nuthatch | <i>Sitta canadensis</i> | SSC |
| Red-cockaded woodpecker | <i>Picoides borealis</i> | FE |
| Roseate tern | <i>Sterna dougallii</i> | FE |
| Sandwich tern | <i>Sterna sandvicensis acuflavidus</i> | SSC |
| Sedge wren | <i>Cistothorus platensis</i> | SSC |
| Sharp-tailed sparrow | <i>Ammodramus caudacutus</i> | SSC |
| Swainson's warbler | <i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i> | SSC |
| Tricolored heron | <i>Egretta tricolor</i> | SSC |
| Upland sandpiper | <i>Bartramia longicauda</i> | ST |
| Wilson's plover | <i>Charadrius wilsonia</i> | SE |
| Winter wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | SSC |
| Yellow-bellied flycatcher | <i>Empidonax flaviventris</i> | SSC |
| Yellow-crowned night-heron | <i>Nyctanassa violaceus violaceus</i> | SSC |

¹ FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; PE=Federal Proposed Endangered; FC=Federal Candidate;
SOC=Federal Species of Concern (not a legal status); SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened; SSC=State
Special Concern (not a legal status) * Effective 1 January 2001 11/16/2001 dsd

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Special Status Species in Virginia*
Sublist of Species for Wildlife Rehabilitators

| <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Scientific Name</u> | <u>Status</u> ¹ |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| <u>MAMMALS:</u> | | |
| Appalachian cottontail | <i>Sylvilagus obscurus</i> | SOC |
| Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel | <i>Sciurus niger cinereus</i> | FE |
| Dismal Swamp southeastern shrew | <i>Sorex longirostris fisheri</i> | ST |
| Eastern big-eared bat | <i>Plecotus rafinesquii macrotis</i> | SE |
| Eastern cougar | <i>Felis concolor cougar</i> | FE |
| Eastern woodrat | <i>Neotoma floridana magister</i> | SOC |
| Gray bat | <i>Myotis grisescens</i> | FE |
| Gray wolf | <i>Canis lupus</i> | FE |
| Indiana bat | <i>Myotis sodalis</i> | FE |
| Marsh rabbit | <i>Sylvilagus palustris palustris</i> | SSC |
| Northern flying squirrel | <i>Glaucomys sabrinus fuscus</i> | FE |
| Rafinesque's big-eared bat | <i>Plecotus rafinesquii</i> | SOC |
| River otter | <i>Lutra canadensis lataxina</i> | SSC |
| Rock vole | <i>Microtus chrotorrhinus</i> | SE/SOC |
| Small star-nosed mole | <i>Condylura cristata parva</i> | SSC |
| Small-footed myotis | <i>Myotis leibii</i> | SOC |
| Smith's Island cottontail | <i>Sylvilagus floridanus hitchensi</i> | SOC |
| Snowshoe hare | <i>Lepus americanus</i> | SE |
| Virginia big-eared bat | <i>Plecotus townsendii virginianus</i> | FE |
| Water shrew | <i>Sorex palustris</i> | SE/SOC |

MARINE MAMMALS:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----|
| Blue whale | <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i> | FE |
| Fin whale | <i>Baleanoptera physalus</i> | FE |
| West Indian (Florida) manatee | <i>Trichechus manatus</i> | FE |
| Humpback whale | <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> | FE |
| Northern right whale | <i>Eubalaena glacialis</i> | FE |
| Sei whale | <i>Balaenoptera borealis</i> | FE |
| Sperm whale | <i>Physeter catodon</i> | FE |

¹ FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; PE=Federal Proposed Endangered; FC=Federal Candidate; SOC=Federal Species of Concern (not a legal status); SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened; SSC=State Special Concern (not a legal status)

Note A: Notwithstanding the prospective removal of the bald eagle from the federal list of endangered or threatened species, the bald eagle continues to be threatened in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is hereby declared to be a threatened species in Virginia effective as of, and simultaneously with, the date of its removal from the federal list.

* Effective 1 January 2001

11/16/2001 dsd

NAME: _____ VDGIF PERMIT# _____

ADDRESS: _____ PAGE _____ OF _____

_____ DATE _____

[illegible]

Permittees are still responsible for maintaining detailed patient records that include species name, date received, person received from, reason obtained, final disposition, and date of disposition. Records are open to inspection by DGIF personnel and complete copies may be requested by the Department at any time.

RETURN TO: Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, Permits Section, P. O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104